(c) There were 149 significant oil and gas fields on production at the end of March, 2001.

Exploration of Oil Deposits in Rajasthan

*318. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO :
DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether ONGC is exploring possibility of presence of large oil deposits in Rajasthan, especially in Sriganganagar area;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) in what manner it is being financed?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (c) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) does not have any Petroleum Exploration Licence (PEL) for carrying out exploration activities in Sriganganagar district of Rajasthan. However, at present exploration work is being carried out in Sriganganagar area by a consortium of an Indian company, Essar Oil Ltd. (EOL) and a Polish company, Polish Oil and Gas Co. (POGC), in the exploration block RJ-ON-90/5. Consortium of EOL and POGC has acquired 962 Line Kilometers (LKM) of 2D seismic data and drilled one well in the block. On production testing, the well gave strong indication of presence of oil, though self-flow was not observed at surface. These exploratory efforts are being financed by the above mentioned companies.

Pension Reforms

*319. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact the total amount of pension payable to the Central Government pensioners have reached unsustainable proportions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether recently a Committee was set up to look into the question of pension reforms; and